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Remarks

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 10-23 are presented for reconsideration.

By the above amendment, independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to define the invention as being directed to statutory subject matter and to clarify the antecedent basis for certain terms, as further discussed below. In consideration of the amendments to claim 1, dependent claim 2 has been canceled and claim 8 has been amended. In the hope of expediting examination, which has already been extended by the reopening of prosecution with new rejections, claims 24-26 and 31-48 have been canceled to reduce issues for the Examiner's consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10-26, 31, 32, and 34-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to recite an outputting step or means, which is a concrete, tangible, and useful result. Accordingly, the Section 101 rejection has been overcome.

The claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with respect to recitations relating to the step or means involving the selection of at least one K compound. These recitations in independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to clarify antecedent basis and the relationship of this step/means to other recitations. The rejection for indefiniteness should therefore be withdrawn.

The claims were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to provide written description support with respect to the step or means involving the deconvolution of compounds into their associated building blocks. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning of this claim terminology in light of the specification. See, e.g., the first paragraph on page 4 of the specification, which describes an embodiment of the invention wherein:

. . . a first set of N reagent combinations are selected from a virtual combinatorial library. . . . Each reagent combination in the first set is then enumerated to produce a first set of enumerated compounds. M number of compounds of the first set of enumerated compounds are selected based on a fitness function. The M compounds are then deconvoluted into reagents to generate a focused library. Every reagent combination associated with the focused library is enumerated to produce a second set of enumerated compounds. K number of compounds of the second set of enumerated compound are then selected based on the fitness function.


See also: page 10, line 13, through page 11, line 22; and page 17, line 22, through page 19, line 14. As apparent from the exemplary description, if M compounds are selected from a set of "enumerated" compounds—which are products generated by chemically transforming (e.g., through virtual combinatorial reaction) reagents or building blocks (see, e.g., page 11, lines 23-27)—then those selected M compounds may be "deconvoluted" back into the reagents or building blocks that were chemically transformed to yield them in the first place. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand from this context the meaning of deconvolution as meaning, in a sense, reverse enumeration, without an express dictionary-type definition. Consequently, the rejection under the first paragraph of Section 112 is in error and should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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